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AiU which is temporarily ceasing ops will continue sponsoring students

PETALING JAYA: Students from Albukhary International University (AiU), which is temporarily ceasing operations, will continue to be sponsored by the Albukhary Foundation.

AiU interim chief executive officer Dr Thomas Ong said some 600 students would be transferred to other universities which had achieved Tier Five ranking in the Rating System for Malaysian Higher Education Institutions (Setara).

"The foundation will continue to fund the tuition fees and living expenses of the students. We will do everything in the best interest of the students to ensure that they will be able to complete their studies," said Dr Ong yesterday.

He denied that the students were

"left in a limbo" after the university had to shut down due to unsustainable management.

"It is unfair for students to go through any disruption in their studies. The priority now is to place the students in good universities by September this year," said Dr Ong.

He said staff from the university had to be retrenched.

Among the institutions which will take in the students from AiU through credit transfer are Asia Pacific University, SEGi University, Universiti Tunku Abdul Rahman, Wawasan Open University, Multimedia Universiti, Universiti Tenaga Nasional, Universiti Utara Malaysia and Universiti Sains Malaysia.

AiU was founded in 1996 by

tycoon Tan Sri Syed Mokhtar Albukhary to provide free education to local and foreign students from underprivileged backgrounds.

The university offered foundation programmes and degree programmes in Business Administration, Banking and Finance, Information Technology and Computer Science.

Dr Ong said the foundation would engage experts in the field to revamp the operation model of the university and reorganise the faculties.

"The founder has every intention to restart the university. It will still not be a profit-driven organisation," said Dr Ong, adding that the university was given a time-frame of one year to make a comeback.